



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone (808) 948-7361

Office of the Director

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Proposals 745, 807, 813, and 826 RELATING TO GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Statement for
Con Con Committee on Environment, Agriculture, Conservation
and Land
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by
Doak C. Cox, Environmental Center

Although the bills differ somewhat, Proposals 745, 807, 813, and 826 all propose to amend Article X of the Constitution to introduce provisions for the regulation of population growth in the State. This statement on the proposals does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Implicitly or explicitly each of the proposals assumes that there are limits to the carrying capacity of the State. Such limits are, however, both indefinite and variable depending upon subjective judgements and technological capabilities.

Proposal 807 recognizes explicitly the importance of quality of life in determining carrying capacities. It would require that in 1980 the people establish target carrying capacities for the State and Counties in 2001. What technological advances might affect the carrying capacities in 2001 cannot be shown in 1980. Furthermore, the establishment of population targets can be of no value unless there are agreed upon means for controlling population growth.

Although the people could later establish different population targets, a provision in which explicit means for such establishments are limited to 1980 seems to be impermanent for inclusion in the Constitution, even if satisfactory means for estimating carrying capacities and limiting growth were available.

Proposals 813 and 836 would attempt to limit growth by requiring the number of new water hookups (and building permits as well in Proposal 826). This means would, no doubt tend to curb population growth. It would also have the effects of increasing the price of existing structures which are already provided with water hookups and of increasing crowding, both socially undesirable.

Proposal 745 recognizes the importance of life style in determining carrying capacities, but appears not to recognize the present range in life styles in Hawaii, the changes in life style that will occur naturally, nor the undesirability to some persons of preserving the life styles that are forced on them by economic and other circumstances. It would encourage agricultural self-sufficiency, without requiring the complete self-sufficiency that would be unattainable, but such encouragement seems already provided by the State.